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INFORMATIVE NOTE

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

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Date

1/17/75

OTHERWISE

Attached [redacted] advises of the consideration of an attempt to abduct a U. S. Official during the visit of Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March of 1975. (S)

EO25x1

[redacted] the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), an anti-government guerrilla group of some 300 to 400 combatants, has requested assistance of the Montonero group in a plan to abduct a U. S. Official or head of a U. S. firm in Argentina during the March, 1975, meeting in Buenos Aires of the foreign ministers of the western hemisphere. The Montonero group, also anti-government, has about 2,500 members. Following the abduction, a public message would be addressed to Kissinger demanding a large sum of money for the release of the victim. The intent would be to embarrass the U. S. Secretary of State and depict him as a cold individual, if the ransom terms are not accepted, or a weak one, if the conditions are met. (S)

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argentina subject

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## Intelligence Division

## INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 1/17/75

The Montonero leadership is opposed to a joint operation. However, it is judged that the ERP has sufficient manpower to carry out an abduction of foreign business executives or officials of the U. S. Mission in Buenos Aires who do not have armed security guards. (C)

You will be advised of any pertinent information received in this matter

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CITE

DIST 15 JANUARY 1975

COUNTRY : ARGENTINA

SUBJECT : CONSIDERATION BY THE ERP OF AN ATTEMPT TO  
ABDUCT A U.S. OFFICIAL DURING KISSINGER'S  
VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES; OBJECTIONS BY THE  
MONTONEROS TO THIS PROPOSAL

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SUMMARY.

THE

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PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) HAS REQUESTED MONTONERO

ASSISTANCE IN A PLAN TO ABDUCT A U.S. OFFICIAL OR THE HEAD  
OF A U.S. FIRM IN ARGENTINA DURING THE SCHEDULED MEETING IN  
BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH 1975 OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE ERP OBJECTIVE IN CARRYING OUT SUCH  
AN OPERATION WOULD BE TO DISRUPT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS'  
MEETING AND EMBARRASS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE OVERALL LEADER OF THE MONTONEROS  
FAVORS THE ERP PLAN, THE MAJORITY OF THE MONTONEROS ARE OPPOSED  
TO ITS ENACTMENT AND FEEL IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO  
MONTONERO POLITICAL GOALS.

EO25x1

[REDACTED] DOUBTS THAT  
THE ERP HAS SUFFICIENT MANPOWER OR ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE  
INFORMATION TO CONDUCT SUCH AN OPERATION BY THEMSELVES AND,  
SINCE THE MONTONEROS WILL PROBABLY NOT AGREE TO A JOINT  
VENTURE, [REDACTED] THAT ANY SUCH OPERATION WILL BE

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ATTEMPTED. THE MONTONEROS ARE MORE INTERESTED AT THIS TIME  
IN WORKING FOR A MILITARY COUP D'ETAT IN ARGENTINA UNDER THE

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[REDACTED]

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LEADERSHIP OF A "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF MILITARY OFFICERS WHICH  
IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE MONTONEROS THE LATTER ORGANIZATION  
HAS ALSO BEEN HEARTENED BY RECENT CONTACT WHICH HAS BEEN  
ESTABLISHED BY THAT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SUPPORTED  
FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER JOSE BER G E L B A R D. END SUMMARY.

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[REDACTED]

THE ERP HAS

[REDACTED] TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT VENTURE TO  
ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE  
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN  
MARCH 1975. THE GENERAL ERP PROPOSAL, AS PRESENTED TO THE  
MONTONEROS, IS TO KIDNAP A U.S. OFFICIAL OR THE HEAD OF AN  
AMERICAN COMPANY WHILE SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS IN  
ARGENTINA, FOLLOWING THE ABDUCTION, A PUBLIC MESSAGE WOULD  
BE ADDRESSED TO KISSINGER DEMANDING A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FOR  
THE RELEASE OF THE VICTIM. THE INTENT OF THE ERP IS TO  
EMBARRASS THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE AND DEPICT HIM AS A  
COLD INDIVIDUAL, IF THE RANSOM TERMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED, OR A  
WEAK ONE, IF THE CONDITIONS ARE MET. ERP LEADERS  
BELIEVE THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO  
TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST KISSINGER PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF THE

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EXPECTED PROTECTION HE WILL BE AFFORDED WHILE IN THE COUNTRY.

2. AS OF MID-JANUARY THE MONTONERO LEADERSHIP, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OVERALL LEADER MARIO F I R M E N I C H, WERE OPPOSED TO THE ERP SUGGESTIN FOR A JOINT OPERATION, COMMENTING THAT THEY BELIEVE SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT.

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A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THIS NATURE AT THIS TIME WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF RIGHTIST MILITARY LEADERS AND DISCOURAGE WHAT WAS TERMED THE "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE MONTONEROS.

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3. ORGANIZATION IS WORKING TOWARD A FUTURE MILITARY COUP D'ETAT WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE LINES OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION AND WHICH WOULD BE LED BY GENERAL D A L A T E A (PHONETIC). THE MONTONEROS BELIEVE THAT THE "PERUANISTA BLOC" OF OFFICERS IS INCREASING ITS STRENGTH CONTINUALLY AND THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FALLS OR IS OVERTHROWN. ALSO, THE MONTONEROS HAVE BEEN HEARTENED BY THE RECENT CONTACT WITH THEM WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THAT SECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH SUPPORTED FORMER ECONOMY

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MINISTER JOSE BER G E L B A R D.

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4.

DOUBTS REGARDING

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THE CAPABILITY OF THE ERP TO CARRY OUT ITS PROPOSED OPERATION  
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MONTONEROS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF  
THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT MANPOWER OR ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE  
INFORMATION.

EO25x1

THE ERP ONLY HAS SOME 300 TO 400  
COMBATANTS AT THE PRESENT TIME, COMPARED TO AN ARMED MONTONERO  
STRENGTH OF SOME 2,500. FOR THIS REASON,

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DOUBTED THAT THE ERP WOULD ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT THE

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OPERATION BY THEMSELVES. COMMENT: THE ESTIMATE OF  
ERP ARMED COMBATANT STRENGTH APPEARS TO BE ACCURATE. ALSO,

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A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE COMBATANTS ARE NOW  
ASSIGNED TO ERP COMPANIES IN THE INTERIOR OF ARGENTINA.

NONETHELESS, THAT THE ERP HAS SUFFICIENT  
MANPOWER AND PROBABLY HAS ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

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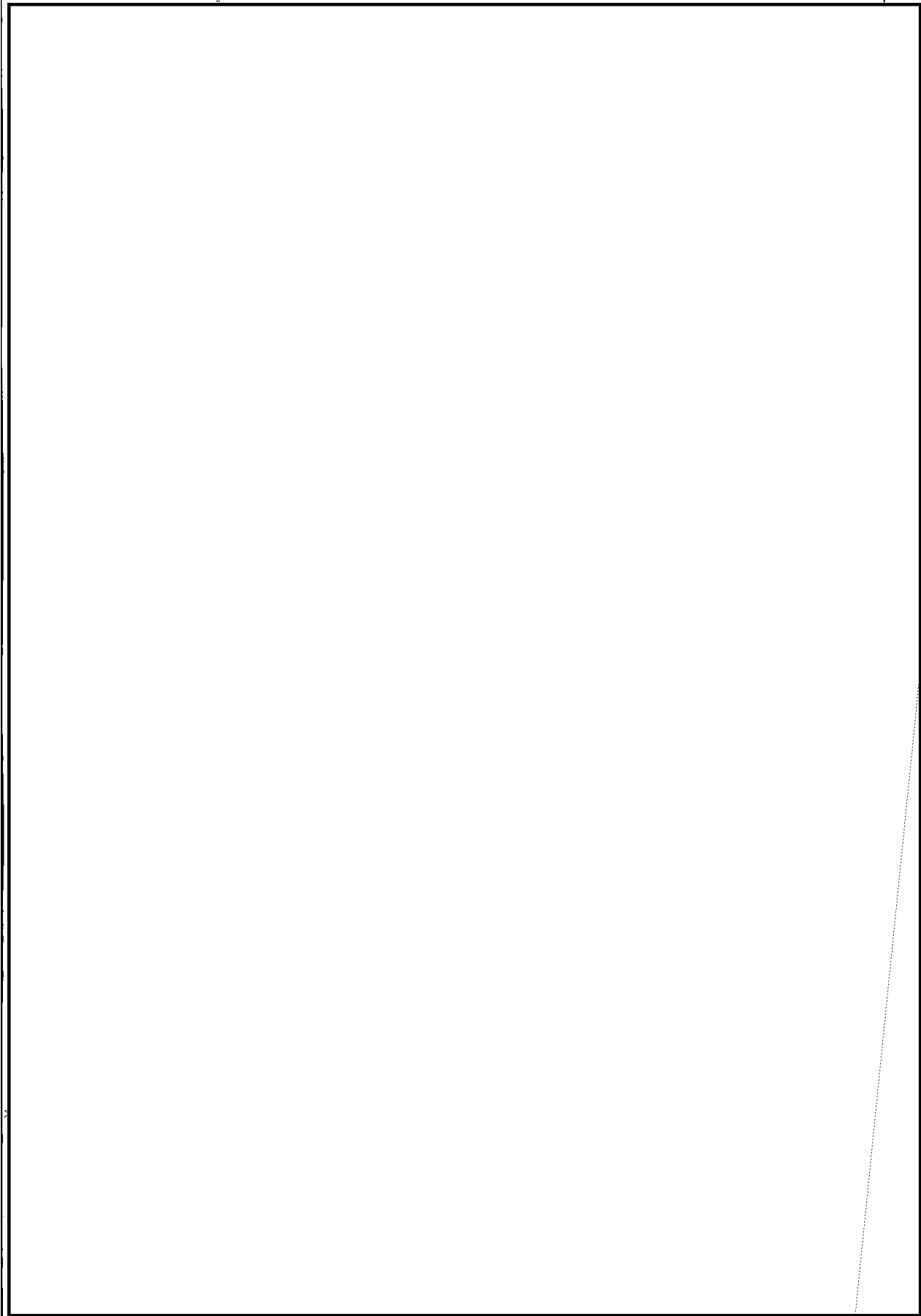
TO CARRY OUT AN ABDUCTION OF FOREIGN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES  
AND OR THOSE OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. MISSION IN BUENOS AIRES WHO DO  
NOT HAVE ARMED SECURITY GUARDS.)

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